

Application No. 10/829,481
Reply to Office Action dated January 30, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to the Figure. This sheet, which includes the amended Figure, replaces the original sheet including the Figure.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of January 30, 2007.

The present Office Action indicated that the previously filed amendments on November 14, 2005 and December 21, 2005 were improper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b) and (d). Specifically, the Office Action indicated that deleted material relative to issued U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039 should be bracketed and that added subject matter should be underlined. Moreover, the revised drawing filed on November 14, 2005 was indicated to be improper due to a labeling issue.

Accordingly and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b) and (d), the various changes to the claims as previously presented in the filings of November 14, 2005 and December 21, 2005 are re-presented herein using the requisite bracket/underline format, which made relative to issued U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039. Some additional changes to the claims are also presented herein in bracket/underline format to provide appropriate antecedent basis for some of the recited elements. These additional changes are also made relative to issued U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039, rather than relative to previously filed amendments. Also, the figure is being resubmitted with the requisite “Amended” label.

The amendments to the claims, specifically, the recitation that the energy transfer unit provides for power line support can be found in the original Figure as filed; in column 3, lines 14-29 of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039; and elsewhere in the specification.

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 are canceled without prejudice. With these claim cancellations and claims as now presented, claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 11-17 are now pending in the application. In view of these amendments and remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173 have been met.

The present Office Action also rejected claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 251 since the original U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039 had expired due to nonpayment of the maintenance fees. A Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fees and the requisite petition and maintenance fees were filed on March 27, 2007. It is believed that this petition and maintenance fee paperwork is currently being processed by the U.S. Patent

Office and that U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039 will be reinstated in due course. The Examiner is kindly requested to check the U.S. Patent Office records, when processing this present amendment, to confirm that the petition has been granted and/or will be granted in due course to reinstate U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney if additional information is needed regarding the paperwork that was filed to reinstate U.S. Patent No. 6,400,039.

V. Conclusion

If there are any other informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

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DMD:wt

Enclosure:

1 Sheets of Replacement Drawings

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